7: Janlekha X-4,5 (1948-1953)1956 AO7 Central Thai AO7
Bangchan

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Relative to the enormous problem created by export and exchange control, the internal marketing problem now appears to be small at least in its relative effect on rice growers. It is true that the Chinese combines in the forms of Rice Dealers' Association and Rice Mills' Association have consolidated economic influence in favor of the Chinese middlemen in Bangkok. But it is equally true that competition among the Chinese rice dealers and millers in the countryside also has worked to the advantage of growers.

It has been observed that the Chinese dealers in Bangchan offer prices to farmers that scarcely differ from prices that the farmers could get from the millers if they were to break the existing pattern and deal directly with the millers themselves. This would often be possible because most of the local farmers possess the large chala boats needed to convey paddy to the mills which are only a few miles away. Actually, the Chinese rice dealers and Bangchan farmers have been observed to be in a rather efficient state of economic symbiosis that compares favorably [186] with most inter-ethnic divisions of labor. Further attestation is found in that there appears to be extremely little anti-Chinese sentiment among the villagers, and this is despite the fact that the national government has from time to time taken somewhat spirited measures against the [426] Chinese. The favors, non-interest bearing loans, and good will gestures accorded the Thai farmers by local Chinese dealers should also be taken into consideration.